

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +21 further includes including the step of:
 - e) —the particular user providing a personal identifier.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +2 wherein the affective information and a user identifier and the degree of importance metadata are stored with each of the digital images in a plurality of digital image files.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein each of the digital image files includes affective information and user identifiers and degree of importance metadata for a plurality of users.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +21 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information measuring the reaction of a particular user includes monitoring the physiology of the particular user.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +21 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information measuring the reaction of a particular user uses a video camera.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +21 wherein the step of automatically collecting affective information measuring the reaction of a particular user includes determining the duration of time the particular user views each of the plurality of images.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim +21 wherein the measuring the reaction of a particular user for the plurality of digital images includes monitoring the gaze of the particular user.
9. – 20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for storing and retrieving important digital images, comprising:

- a) storing a plurality of digital images;
- b) displaying the plurality of stored digital images for viewing by a particular user;
- c) measuring the reaction of the particular user as each of the plurality of stored digital images is displayed;
- d) determining, from the measured reaction of the particular user to each of the plurality of displayed images, a degree of importance for each of the plurality of stored digital images;
- e) storing metadata indicating the degree of importance of each of the plurality of stored digital images to the particular user; and
- f) using the stored degree of importance metadata to retrieve at least one stored digital image of importance to the particular user.

22. (New) The method of claim 21 wherein the degree of importance is selected from a determined degree of preference, degree of interest or degree of excitement or combinations thereof.